

Glen Eden Intermediate raises \$23,000 for child refugees

Sarah Roberts 10:55, Jul 22 2016



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Glen Eden Intermediate School raised more than \$20,000 for World Vision New Zealand 40 hour famine.

A group of west Auckland students have raised \$23,701 towards eradicating world famine.

Glen Eden Intermediate School raised the fifth highest amount out of all the schools in the country that took part in the World Vision New Zealand 40 Hour Famine on the weekend of June 10 to 12.

It was the first state school to be named on the leadership board, with the top four being private education facilities.

Five hundred and fifty Glen Eden students took part in this year's 40 Hour Famine, which is more than half of the school.

Teacher Alan Diprose says he's been organising the school's event since 1994.

"There's many reasons why it's good. Firstly, World Vision makes a difference and ends up feeding communities who are in need."

"Secondly, it's important for children growing up in New Zealand to learn how other people have to live," Diprose says.

"They grow up with a giving attitude, rather than a me, me, me attitude."

This year, for the first time in 41 years, the focus of the famine turned to 40 hours for refugee children, to raise awareness of the Syria refugee crisis and help fund child-friendly spaces in refugee camps in Jordan.

Nearly 100,000 New Zealanders signed up for the One Weekend One Backpack challenge to live out of a backpack for the 40 hour famine weekend.

A group of Glen Eden students did a refugee walk, crossing waters in the school's pool and walking quite a distance, Diprose says.

Children from around the country also took part in walkathons and sleepovers, including setting up backyard box camps and running markets.

World Vision chief executive Chris Clarke is in awe of the efforts made by Kiwis this year.

"This was the first time in 41 years the focus of the 40 Hour Famine changed and it really stuck a chord with Kiwis," he says.

"I think what refugees are going through really resonates with New Zealanders because we recognise that although it's unlikely to happen to us here in New Zealand, there's a sense that we are all parents, brothers and sisters."

The total amount raised from the 40 Hour Famine will be announced in August.

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